

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-10 OMB-01 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /093 W

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R 191627Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2213

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4274

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, CU

SUBJ: SPANISH/CUBA RELATIONS

REF : MADRID 2504, 1463

1. COMMENTING TO EMBOFF ABOUT RECENT VISIT TO CUBA (MAY 28-JUNE 4) BY MFA OFFICIAL ENRIQUE PEREZ HERNANDEZ, WHO HAEDED DELEGATION TO NEGOTIATE ON INDEMNIFICATION, MFA CUBAN DESK OFFICER JUAN MANUEL CEVERA OBSERVED THAT IMPORTANT ASPECT FOR SPAIN WAS POSITIVE ATTITUDE CUBA DISPLAYED IN RECENT NEGOTIATIONS AND IMPRESSION THAT CUBA GENUINELY INTERESTED IN REACHING AGREEMENT. CEVERA THOUGHT THAT AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED "SOON", BUT HE REFRAINED FROM ANY SPECULATION AS TO WHEN OR WHAT FURTHER PROBLEMS NEED TO BE WORKED OUT. PRESS REPORTS HAVE INDICATED THAT SPANISH TECHNICAL EXPERTS ON DELEGATION REMAINED BEHIND TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. COMMENT: INITIAL PRESS REPORTS ON PEREZ HERNANDEZ' RETURN INDICATED SPAIN AND CUBA ON VERGE OF AGREEMENT AND
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THAT HIS MISSION HAD BEEN GREAT SUCCESS. HOWEVER, SOME

NEWSPAPERS LATER CARRIED OBSCURE DENIALS THAT THIS WAS THE
CASE. CEVERA'S RETICENCE TO PROVIDE MUCH DETAIL WOULD
TEND TO SUPPORT OUR IMPRESSION THAT, WHILE CUBA MAY HAVE
MANIFESTED AN INTEREST IN REMOVING THIS LAST BONE OF
CONTENTION WITH SPAIN, HARD BARGAINING REMAINS BEFORE
TERMS OF INDEMNIFICATION ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES ARE
WORKED OUT.
STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, VISITS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MADRID04274
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750215-0687
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750635/aaaabfpg.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MADRID 2504, 75 1463
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH/CUBA RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, SP, CU, (HERNANDEZ, ENRIQUE PEREZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006